

enduring oral history archive of northern Lincolnshire's rural heritage. Recordings were edited and scripted into four main subject areas: 'Village Life', 'Farming Life', 'Traditions and Characters' and 'Home and School Life'. Audio clips and transcripts of some of the recordings are also available online.

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### ■ NORTH YORKSHIRE YORK

An update from Victoria Martin on 'Talking Quilts', a national oral history project that is recording, preserving and sharing the UK's rich and diverse quilting heritage through the stories of today's quilters:

'The project was initiated by The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles, who are based in York, and is supported by the HLF. "Talking Quilts" is using the regional structure of The Quilters' Guild to roll out the project to eight regions over three years. It is being led by volunteers, who are trained to conduct oral history interviews using audio recording equipment, as well as complete interview transcriptions. The interviews focus on a "touchstone object", one quilt or quilted object made by the interviewee, exploring the story behind it. The interview then broadens out to explore the quilter's relationship with quilt-making and the role quilt-making plays in their life.

'In April 2014, the project began in Yorkshire, Humberside, Teesside and Cleveland. A training day was held in York, before eight volunteers interviewed nineteen fellow quilters over a three-month period. Nicky Ryden, who took part in this first phase, said: "It was a really good experience. I so enjoyed the opportunity to talk about my quilt to someone who was knowledgeable and



**Talking Quilts interviewee Kate Smith with the quilt she made to remember her mother's work at Bletchley Park.**

interested." Stories collected included a quilt used to support literacy in schools, a quilt made in memory of a daughter who died aged fifteen years and a quilt marking the code-breaking history of Bletchley Park. "Talking Quilts" moved to South and Mid Wales in August 2014, where twenty interviews were captured by a team of six interviewers. It then

travelled to London and Middlesex in November 2014, where volunteers from across the region explored the diversity of the quilting community. "Talking Quilts" volunteer Alice Sage met a quilter who wanted to tell people about her home country of Iraq, through her quilt "Piece for Peace" which explores the invasion in 2003. The project also captured the story of Jacqueline Illes' well-travelled "My Lucy Boston Quilt", a traditional quilt which Jacqueline made in the UK, India, South

America, New Zealand and the USA.

'The project headed up to Scotland in February 2015, with volunteers taking part in training sessions in Edinburgh and Inverness, and then on to Sussex, Surrey and Kent in June 2015. It will roll out to another region before the end of 2015, and a further two regions in 2016. All the interviews are being transcribed by volunteers in the quilting community. The resulting digital audio recordings and transcripts of the interviews, along with accompanying photographs, are safely stored at The Quilters' Guild of the British Isles in York. The "Talking Quilts" website has been created to share the interviews with the public, and offers advice to encourage other groups and individuals to document quilters' stories in their own communities.'

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### ■ SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Sam Smith sends an update on the 'South Yorkshire Through Time' (SYTT) website, launched in September 2014 at Experience Barnsley Museum as a hub for community history groups and projects in South Yorkshire. The website includes a directory of over 200 community-based history groups and projects in South Yorkshire. There are also posts by Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) history students and a growing collection of resources relating to the history of South Yorkshire.

SYTT held a second event, 'Remembering and Forgetting: local commemorations of WWI', in April 2015 at Kelham Island Museum in Sheffield. The event was well attended and included talks focusing on appropriate ways for commemorating the First World War by local heritage project managers and Sheffield Hallam students and lecturers. The event also included funding

advice from the HLF for planning First World War projects. Several of the talks are available in audio and transcript form on the SYTT website.

● Contact for further information or to join the SYTT mailing list: Sam Smith, SHU research assistant, email [contactsytt@gmail.com](mailto:contactsytt@gmail.com), website [www.southyorkshirethroughtime.org.uk](http://www.southyorkshirethroughtime.org.uk)

## SCOTLAND

### ■ EDINBURGH AND THE LOTHIAN

News of the Polish-Scottish Heritage project that aims to promote a greater awareness of Poland and Scotland's shared heritage: 'It is especially important, now that the Polish community in Scotland is larger than ever before (67,000), to discover those long-lasting connections, preserving and celebrating the shared histories of places, events and people for present and future generations.'

'The project will gather historical information and provide interpretation using a variety of multimedia storytelling techniques, including photographs, videos and podcasts, prepared in an oral history sub-project. All the material will then be presented on a website in an easy-to-follow and understandable "Heritage Trail" in the format of an interactive map, with histories of places, events and people linked to the specific location. The project will also develop an outreach programme to make sure that a greater number and wider range of people are taking an active part in learning and making decisions about our shared Polish-Scottish heritage.'

'It will also deliver a diverse outreach programme to support learning and give people the opportunity to understand and enjoy the value of Poland and Scotland's common heritage. A key activity of the proposed programme is a Polish Scottish Heritage Festival, a five-day celebration with exhibitions, storytelling nights, film screenings, lectures and open days in

mainstream museums and galleries that present collections related to the trail.

'Twelve volunteers will be recruited for the oral history project and podcast development. They will be trained in oral history techniques, providing them with tools to record and edit into ten-minute podcasts a minimum of twelve interviews with people sharing their memories and experiences of Polish-Scottish integration. The "Young Explorers – Polish-Scottish Heritage Workshops" aspect of the project will also develop educational content and deliver hour-long workshops for children age seven to twelve, exploring different aspects of Polish-Scottish heritage. We will use social media such as Facebook and Twitter to encourage people to participate in developing the trail, discuss our joint heritage, share new ideas, and promote the project in real time.'

● Further information: website <http://polishscottishheritage.co.uk>

## WALES

### ■ WEST GLAMORGAN SWANSEA

A six-week exhibition telling the stories of patients and staff of a former institution for people with a learning disability was launched at Swansea Museum earlier this year. It was interpreted using oral history interviews, recreating parts of the hospital and making available extracts from fifteen oral history interviews, offering visitors a sense of what it was like to grow up and spend up to forty years living in an institution.

Mencap Cymru's 'Hidden Now Heard' project, which received a £292,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, has collected testimonies of people with a learning disability, their relatives and staff who spent time at the long-stay hospital Hensol Castle in the Vale of Glamorgan. The three-year project will focus on six long-stay hospitals in total, with exhibitions taking place across six regional museums and making